

WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT POLICY

Strongly Endorsed by President Taft in Address at Convention of National Rivers and Harbors Congress

Washington, Dec. 8.—Strongly endorsing the policy of waterway improvement President Taft caused much enthusiasm during the opening hours of the sixth convention of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress here today. Hundreds of delegates, representing every section of the United States, filled the great banquet hall of the New Willard, where they sat under their state banners.

Upon being presented to the assembly by Joseph F. Ransdell, president of the congress, President Taft spoke at length, dwelling upon his interest in waterway improvement and offered advice to the delegates upon methods for attaining the ends they seek.

The Issuing of Bonds.
After referring to various waterway projects in detail, the president continued: "A year ago President Roosevelt and I were together on a platform before the conservation of resources convention, in which we both advocated the issuing of bonds in order that a project improving waterways when begun should be completed in a reasonable time. I am still a consistent advocate of that theory. I believe that the government is entitled to as rapid a method of developing an enterprise and putting it through as private corporations, and as the always issue bonds, or generally do (some of them are fortunate enough not to have to), in order to expedite the completion of these projects, it would seem wise for the nation to do so where it will accomplish the same result."

A Word of Caution.
"But I want to suggest a word of caution. You are going to encounter in congress great opposition to the policy of issuing bonds right out of hand. You are much more likely to get from congress a declaration of policy in the shape of a declaration that certain improvement ought to be carried out and spread upon the min-

utes of congress in the form of a resolution or a declaration in a statute. What I advise you to do is to get that declaration. Then, when the time comes that political exigencies shall prevent the appropriation of sufficient from the current revenues to put the proper part of the project through the coming year or the coming two years as economy requires, then the question of issuing bonds will arise. I would get the declaration first and not the bonds first, for the reason that you will encounter the objection of congress that the issuing of bonds and the receipt of the money will develop a desire to be extravagant."

Will Encounter Opposition in Congress
"That may not meet your views, but I have thought it over and I know something about congress. I know where you are going to encounter opposition and I believe the best way is the natural way with those gentlemen. You lead them to declare in favor of the Missouri improvement, in favor of the St. Louis to St. Paul improvement, in favor of the Cairo to St. Louis improvement, all of which have been approved by the army engineers, and set them recording in the statutes of this country as declaring that those things are to be carried out and let them make their first appropriations from the revenues of the country and then you have them where they must issue bonds, unless the revenues afford a sufficient amount each year to carry that project on economically and with due rapidity."

The president was frequently interrupted by applause and left the hall amid renewed cheering.

German Ambassador Spoke.
Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, spoke of the waterways of the German empire, arousing the utmost interest by the graphic way in which he showed their importance to the commerce of Germany.

BRIEF STATE NEWS

Middletown.—The estate of the late George H. Bishop, as shown by the inventory, is valued at \$70,149.58.

Deep River.—Capt. David R. Post, aged 73, died at his home on North Main street, Tuesday, after an illness of one month with kidney trouble.

Stamford.—Secretary Weed of Stamford Y. M. C. A. was in Greenwich recently for the purpose of interesting, if possible, young men to become members.

Meriden.—Irving Bacheller, the author read from his own works at Curtis library Tuesday afternoon under the auspices of the Thursday Morning club.

Westport.—There is said to be a never-falling well on King street, which even the recent drought has not affected. It supplies a dozen families with water.

Shelton.—For three weeks the aggregate amount deposited in the savings bank from the school savings bank system is \$341, or considerably over \$100 per week.

Easton.—The degree team of Easton grange has been invited to confer the fourth degree upon a class of candidates at Housatonic grange, Stamford, Saturday evening, December 11.

Portland.—Dandelions have blossomed in several localities about town and in the quarry yard the latter part of the week just closed several Italian women and children were digging them.

Norwalk.—The Norwalk Towing Co. has recently secured a contract for towing a bridge from Bridgeport to Six Cove. The bridge will be placed in sections on barges and taken by way of water to its destination.

Torrington.—Senator Isaac W. Brooks of Torrington, president pro tem of the senate, will act as governor during the absence of Governor Weeks in Washington to attend the meeting of the National Waterways convention there.

Bridgeport.—The December term of the criminal superior court, Judge Ralph Wheeler, presiding, was opened Tuesday afternoon by the Rev. Charles H. Lynch of St. Charles church with prayer. Of the 45 prisoners put to plea, only two pleaded guilty.

Watertown.—Mrs. Horace D. Taft, who went south a few weeks ago for her health, has returned to Johns Hopkins hospital, Baltimore. Mrs. Taft's condition is not as encouraging as it has been. Mrs. Taft left Watertown Tuesday for Baltimore to visit his wife.

A Grand Trunk Terminal.
The Providence Board of trade has adopted resolutions encouraging the Grand Trunk railroad to execute plans providing for an entrance into Providence. The road is likely to find several serious, though possibly not insurmountable difficulties in carrying out any scheme for the establishment of a terminal in Providence. *Hartford Times.*

Taft and Aldrich in 1912.
Mr. Bryan predicts that Senator Aldrich will be on the republican ticket in 1912. That sounds as if Mr. Bryan was going to run himself, and was willing to make his way as easy as possible. *Washington Times.*

Alone in Sawmill at Midnight.
Unmindful of dampness, drafts, storms or cold, W. J. Atkins worked as night watchman at Banner Springs, Tenn. Such exposure gave him a severe cold that settled on his lungs. At last he had to give up work. He tried many remedies but all failed till he used Dr. King's New Discovery. "After using one bottle," he writes, "I went back to work as well as ever." Severe colds, stubborn coughs, inflamed throats and sore lungs, hemorrhages, croup and whooping cough get quick relief and prompt cure from this glorious medicine. 50c and \$1. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by The Lee & Osgood Co.

Rich Men's Gifts Are Poor
beside this: "I want to go on record as saying that I regard Electric Bitters as one of the greatest gifts that God has made to woman," writes Mrs. O. Rhine-vault of Vestal Center, N. Y. "I can never forget what it has done for me." This glorious medicine gives a woman buoyant spirit, vigor of body and brilliant health. It quickly cures nervousness, sleeplessness, melancholy, headache, backache, fainting and dizzy spells. Soon builds up the weak, ailing and sickly. Try them. 50c. at The Lee & Osgood Co.

A Policeman's Testimony.
J. N. Patterson, night policeman, of Nashua, Iowa, writes: "Last winter I had a bad cold on my lungs and tried at least half a dozen advertised cough medicines and had treatment from two physicians without getting any benefit. A friend recommended Foley's Honey and Tar and two-thirds of a bottle cured me. I consider it the greatest cough and lung medicine in the world." *See Lee & Osgood Co.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

An Electrified Tower Clock.

Mr. Editor: It may not be known to all readers of The Bulletin that the steeple clock of the "old uptown meeting house" is illuminated by electricity until 12 o'clock every night, thanks to the worthy successors in the "first parish" of the founders of Norwich who do not hide their light under a bushel, but let it so shine that men may see their good works. The 9 o'clock curfew was long ago relegated to "innocuous demerit"—to borrow Grover Cleveland's phrase, which would have astonished his ancestors not less than the abolition of the time honored custom, abolition of the time honored custom.

WILLIAM C. GILMAN.
Norwich, Dec. 8, 1909.

A Word in Defense of Benedict Arnold

Mr. Editor: One of your amusement halls has presented this week a series of moving pictures entitled Benedict Arnold, etc. In the preparation of matter in text or illustration, a writer or illustrator allows his own feelings or prejudices to color his work. In the case above the general has been shown on his dark side, but not a word for the great work he did. Allow us to say the good word here:

1—His first entrance into military life, as shown in his march from New Haven to Boston.
2—His great service at Crown Point and Ticonderoga and his gaining there the first naval victory of the Revolution.
3—His Canadian expedition, his part of which has been conceded the most admirably conducted of any American expedition and never has been excelled since.

4—His conduct in grasping the field on his back is worthy of note, as well as his conducting the retreat back to the states.
5—His great service about New York.

6—The plan and advice which decided Washington to attack the enemy at Trenton. Princeton has been credited to him. The British annals of the time concede him this honor. Had not this move been made, and had the British general crossed the Delaware and fought a battle, he would have crushed Washington and the cause he represented. Arnold there saved the army.

7—The complete and utter rout of St. Clair and his army before a battle is a matter of history. The general is credited as being the only general of that war to have gained this honor.
8—Saratoga has been credited by several eminent authorities with being the great decisive battle of the war. Here was lighted the glorious Light of Freedom that led the way to Yorktown. The general's charge in this battle won the day. Had this battle gone against us, the fate of that struggle might have been different. Fate had decreed that this man should again save the army. In this charge the general was severely wounded and so for a year he hardly left his room. His soldiers and his wife alone pulled him through a year of intense suffering.

9—Congress placed him in charge of Philadelphia, where his great services were the means of again saving the cause.

In brief, I believe we owe our existence as a nation to this son of New York.

So far in his career there is no military hero of that immortal struggle for independence that had performed so great, so signal a service. How was he rewarded for all his gallant deeds in congress? Yes, at the time when he was an invalid and yet suffering great pain, and when his military life had been a life of iron and steel, and when his powers of endurance had reached their limit.

It was at this time that congress took to do the blackest, most cruel and heartless deed that stains their record in that glorious struggle. It was then the most cowardly blow was struck which wounded the hero of Saratoga to the heart.

Like all the rest of the race, Benedict Arnold was human, and his powers of endurance had reached their limit. Whatever he did from this time forward, the shadow of the deed with all its infamy, ought to rest more on the shoulders of those who caused it than the victim of such a catastrophe.

The general has been made the scapegoat of the Revolution. All the infamous deeds of that band of conspirators that so stain our annals at this period has been placed on his shoulders, and the pen has sought the future nation. So long as this farce can be kept up, Gates, Conway, Lee and such ilk are safe from the discerning eye of history.

A great wall has been set up over Andre. Had the plot succeeded, and hundreds of patriots' lives had paid the penalty, why, then is Andre and his life forever or longer than another's? Andre was condemned as a spy, and he knew his medicine before he took it. Where has the enemy shown the sympathy like this for the gallant hero, whom they hung in New York as a spy? Did Andre show more heroism than this true Connecticut son, who said at the last: "I only regret I have but one life to lose for my country."

I will contrast the great cause of the Duke of Marlborough, whose last years of life was a perfect blotch. It certainly is a contemptible mind that would hold up these years of the duke's life to ridicule and to infamy. Rather

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